



# 2001 ANNUAL REPORT

April 2002

## Division of Remediation Bureau of Remediation and Waste Management

The cleanup of waste sites is often expensive and time consuming. Consequently, exploring and evaluating innovative, cost-effective remedial options is an essential part of our work. Innovative removals/cleanup actions are on-going at federal Superfund sites like Loring Air Force Base, Eastland Woolen Mill in Corinna, and Eastern Surplus in Meddybemps. State site cleanups have used innovative remedies like a bio-reactor to treat contaminated ground water at the Fayscott Site in Dexter, and "soilcrete," a process that solidified oil sludges using fly ash and Portland cement at the Portland Bangor Waste Oil Site in Wells. A new public water system was completed this year for the village of Oquossoc and construction started on the Tenants Harbor Water System.

Since its inception in 1993, the Voluntary Response Action Program (VRAP) has examined 293 sites for cleanup and reuse. Thirty-six VRAP applications were received this year and 34 were completed. Staff conducted 15 site assessment reports for EPA this year including Brownfield Site Assessments. Staff also acted as Brownfield Site Managers for 4 EPA designated Brownfields Sites in Maine.

This year we made payments for remediation work completed in 2000 as part of the Municipal Landfill Closure and Remediation Program. Three additional landfills were closed in 2001. To date, of the 402 municipal landfills located throughout Maine, 374 are certified as closed. Fifteen of the remaining 28 municipal landfills are licensed and active, leaving only 13 inactive landfills for a closure rate of over 96%. In addition, 119 landfills received "post closure" inspections this year to monitor how well the closures are being maintained.

Division staff completed cleanups at a large number of underground tank sites, Superfund sites, state uncontrolled hazardous waste sites, federal sites, and private sites. Additionally, a number of long-term underground tanks sites were successfully closed out this year. Emergency removal of hazardous materials at sites in Meddybemps, Eastport, Madawaska, and Danforth protected the public from immediate health threats.

The Division's Annual Reports, Site Lists, and the Soil Cleanup Guidelines are available for viewing or printing on the DEP Homepage (see page 8). These documents and our Risk Assessment Guidance for Hazardous Substance Sites are also available by mail. Call, write, or e-mail if you have questions about any of our sites. We look forward to another challenging and successful year.

— Mark Hyland, Division Director

### Topics of Interest

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# Uncontrolled Sites Program

## Highlights For 2001

### Portland Bangor Waste Oil, Wells:

An innovative approach to hazardous substance cleanup undertaken by the state and nationally known consultant TRC at the 10 acre PBWO site was nearly completed. The project, which started in May 2001, recovered and treated over 40,000 tons of contaminated soil, sediment and sludge. The treated material was placed in a vault at the site. In addition, a waterline was extended to residents whose potable water had been contaminated.



*PBWO Site, Wells — circa 1980*



*PBWO Site, Wells — November 2001*

### Green Hill Quarry PCB Site, Meddybemps:

A cooperative venture undertaken by the DEP and the EPA at the Green Hill Quarry in Meddybemps resulted in the removal of nearly 15,000 tons of PCB contaminated sand and gravel from the environment. The cost of this project, which was shared by the state and federal governments, was nearly \$2,600,000.

### Olsky Landfill, Mexico:

Working with the Meade Company, a 5-acre industrial landfill was covered and closed.

### Fayscott, Dexter:

The portion of the facility used for the disposal of industrial wastes was capped. An innovated approach, a bioreactor, was installed to treat contaminated groundwater.

### Bangor Landing, Bangor:

The DEP entered into an agreement with the City of Bangor to hire a contractor to investigate coal tar which has been deposited along the bottom of the Penobscot River. The agreement also calls for a study to examine and evaluate clean up alternatives.

### Portland Bangor Waste Oil, Casco:

The DEP hired a consultant to conduct a remedial investigation of the PBWO site off Tenny Hill Road in Casco. Information gained from the investigation will be used to evaluate clean up options.

### Kerramerican Mine, Blue Hill:

A study was performed to evaluate the potential impact posed by this site to the environment and to identify closure options.

# Petroleum Hydrocarbon Remediation Program

*The Petroleum Remedial Planning Unit (RPU) is part of an intra-bureau, multiple division program that responds to, investigates and remediates petroleum releases to the environment. In addition, the RPU identifies responsible parties and seeks their participation in petroleum remedial actions. Finally, RPU seeks to provide long term protection, such as the construction of alternate water supplies, to Maine residents impacted by petroleum contamination. Over the past year, the RPU's three project managers managed 36 cases located throughout the state. Currently, the Petroleum Remediation Program has 418 active or unresolved remediation projects. Over the past year, 128 cases were closed and 144 cases added. A priority list of Petroleum Remediation Program cases is available.*

*— Tom Benn, Unit Leader*

## Remedial Project Summaries

### Lowell Cove Remediation, Harpswell

Following the removal of contaminated soils and the installation of a pump-and-treat system at the Methodist Church Parsonage to remove the spilled heating oil, groundwater quality has shown significant improvement. Consequently, the RPU removed thirty Point-of-Entry (POE) residential carbon filtration systems once sampling and analysis showed that those wells contained safe drinking water. Seven residential filtration systems remain in operation.

### Oquossoc Village Water Supply Replacement

Christmas came to Oquossoc Village in the form of a new water supply system. The system supplies safe drinking water to 14 residences using two 400-foot deep bedrock wells on land trust property. Expandable in design, additional connections can be made should it be necessary to connect more homes to the system. *Costs:* \$1,375,000.00 to date.

### Jewett's Auto Service, Jefferson

DEP Response Services took actions to clean up a diesel fuel spill in Davis Stream, a tributary of Damariscotta Lake. An estimated 700 gallons of diesel fuel were released into

nearby sub-soils from fuel pump piping at Jewett's Auto Service. Contaminated soil was removed during the summer months concurrently with the DEP's monitoring of area homeowners' wells. Staff worked with Mr. Jewett to upgrade the fuel dispensers, product piping, and delivery systems.

### S & M Cash Market, South China

The DEP managed the removal of three underground storage tanks at this closed store. In addition to the tanks, 110 tons of petroleum contaminated soil were excavated. A replacement drinking water supply for the store and two homeowners was installed. DEP monitored the post-excavation conditions of the site, and the homeowners' drinking water supplies.

### Village Remediation, Tenants Harbor

Construction of the pump-station for the replacement water system was completed in 2001. The entire water supply system is scheduled for completion in June 2002. When finished, the system will supply over 100 homes and businesses with clean water. Until then, we continue to provide monitoring of the GAC filtration systems in homes with threatened or contaminated wells. *Costs:* \$5,439,832 to date.

# Federal Facilities and Superfund Unit

## *Eastern Surplus Site, Meddybemps*

The State Superfund Contract was signed ahead of the July 31, 2001 deadline. The remedial design was completed during the summer of 2001 and the final site walkover was completed in August 2001, officially commencing the remedial action phase of the cleanup.

## *McKin Site, Gray*

EPA issued the Record of Decision Amendment on March 30, 2001. The Amendment To Consent Decree for the Settlement was approved by the court in December 2001.

## *Naval Computer & Telecommunication Station, Cutler*

A total of 16 towers were stripped and repainted at Cutler this summer (3 towers left from 1997 and 13 additional towers). This equals approximately 300,000 square feet of paint containing PCBs and lead removed.

## *Argyll Pumping Station*

Approximately 19,000 lbs of fuel was recovered from the soil using thermal extraction technology.

## *Naval Air Station, Brunswick*

Additional direct push investigation was performed to define the southern boundary of the Eastern Plume and refine the lithology of Site 11. Soil and groundwater investigation was performed at Site 7.

## *West Site How's Corner, Plymouth*

The remedial investigation was finalized and options for cleanup were identified and the merits of each identified and discussed. The deed transferring the supply well to the Plymouth Water District was registered with the Penobscot County Registry of Deeds on September 18, 2001.

## *Eastland Woolen Mill, Corinna*

After two years of rearranging the landscape (razing/moving downtown buildings, relocating a bridge and a section of Route 7 and of the East Branch of the Sebasticook River), removal of contaminated soil began in earnest. The accumulated stockpile at the end of 2001 totaled approximately 75,000 cubic yards of chlorobenzene contaminated soils.

## *Loring Air Force Base, Limestone*

DEP hired a contractor, successfully obtained additional funding from the EPA SITE program, began the investigation and designed an innovative Pilot Test for removal of solvent contamination from the bedrock at the Quarry Site.

## *Portsmouth Naval Shipyard*

With MEDEP's concurrence, the USEPA and US Navy signed the Record of Decision for Operable Unit 3, primarily the 25-acre Jamaica Island Landfill, in August 2001. The selected remedy includes a multiple layer hazardous waste landfill cover, consolidation of Jamaica Cove, institutional controls, erosion controls and long-term monitoring. The Navy will begin work on the remedy in May 2002.

# Site Assessment and Support Services Unit

*The Site Assessment & Support Services Unit administers the Voluntary Response Action Program (VRAP), the State Brownfields Program, the federal Site Assessment Program for EPA's CERCLA (the federal list of hazardous waste sites) sites, and conducts initial investigations, sampling, removal actions and routine monitoring for sites within the division's different programs. In addition, the unit develops and revises standard operating procedures for field activities and is responsible for the implementation of the Division's Quality Action Plan (QAP), a requirement of our grant funding from EPA.*

— Nick Hodgkins, Unit Leader

## VRAP

In 2001, VRAP received fewer applications in the first 4 months, and then increased to levels consistent with past performance. VRAP continues to encourage businesses to redevelop former industrial and commercial sites.

- New sites: 36
- Sites resolved: 34
- Currently being investigated or needing additional investigation: 19
- Currently being remediated or needing remedial action: 19
- 2001 revenues: \$39,026

## Remediation / Removal

Unit staff participated in remedial or removal activities at 33 sites during 2001. Highlight removal sites include:

- Harry Smith's Junkyard—Meddybemps
- Louis Cote Landfill—Madawaska
- Central Street Railyard—Danforth

## Brownfields

Unit personnel act as the Brownfields Site Manager for the four EPA Brownfields sites in Maine. These sites are:

- Westbrook Riverfront—Westbrook
- Marginal Way—Portland
- Ayers Island—Orono
- Bates Mill—Lewiston

In addition, the unit has completed review and approval of work conducted through the State

Planning Office's Maine Municipal Brownfields Site Assessment Grant Program at two sites in 2001:

- Head-of Falls Properties—Waterville
- Quoddy Bay Packing Co.—Lubec

## Land for Maine's Future Program (LMFP)

The unit performed 16 Environmental Hazard Assessments (EHA) at parcels of property proposed for LMFP funding. The EHA consisted of a review of all DEP files to determine if the parcels had recorded discharges or environmental issues, and a site visit and interview with parties knowledgeable about the project parcels.

## EPA Assessments

Unit personnel conducted investigations and completed EPA reports for 15 sites in the past year, including:

- Brownfields Sites Assessments: 2
- Mini-Site Inspections: 3
- Site Discovery Projects: 9
- Preliminary Assessments/Site Investigations: 1

## Project Management

The unit fulfilled general Project Management duties at 30 sites. In addition, the unit provided field and administrative support for Project Managers in other units at 22 other sites.

# Landfill Closure and Remediation Program

## Dexter landfill:

DEP staff and contracted consultants began groundwater assessment efforts at this closed landfill. The landfill may have received residential, commercial and industrial wastes.

## Post-closure inspections:

The Landfill Closure and Remediation Program conducted a total of 119 post-closure inspections throughout the state during 2001.

## Lamoine landfill:

DEP continued groundwater investigations near the landfill and transfer station and considered an alternative water supply for one resident adversely impacted by the landfill. Low levels of organic contamination have been found in a number of other residential wells in the area.

## Northport:

Although this site missed the deadline for state financial assistance, the town received technical assistance from the DEP and completed closure of their municipal landfill in 2001.

## Wells Route 9B (Abenaki Trail) landfill:

With State assistance, a water line was extended to a number of homes located on and in the immediate vicinity of this small abandoned landfill. During the 1970's and 1980's a subdivision was established on top of and adjacent to the site. Additional investigations continue at this site.

## Winter Harbor Landfill:

A state grant helped to move a water line extension project through the planning stage.

The water will be hooked up in 2002 to six homes where water quality has been adversely affected due to landfill-generated solvents.

## Woolwich Landfill:

A state grant provided funds to identify possible locations for two replacement wells to replace two residential wells impacted by the closed municipal landfill. Installation and development of these wells is scheduled for 2002.

## Post closure monitoring:

DEP staff assisted the towns of Corinna and Winter Harbor with development of their own residential monitoring programs. This represents a transition back to town responsibility after years of DEP monitoring and investigations at each site. The towns of Gray, Kennebunkport and Windham were also assisted with the development of post-closure sampling plans that had not been previously implemented after closure of these municipal landfills.

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## Photos on Facing Page:

1. Abandoned torpedo - Smith Junkyard, Meddybemps
2. Blue dye material - Louis Cote Landfill, Madawaska
3. Five gallon hazardous waste container, Smith Junkyard, Meddybemps
4. Stationary containment going up on radio tower - Naval Computer and Telecommunications Center, Cutler
5. Excavation of Lagoon 4 waste - Portland Bangor Waste Oil, Wells
6. Leaking barrel and tires - Smith Junkyard, Meddybemps
7. Residential water filter system - Wyman Auto Body, Gorham
8. Excavation of chlorobenzene contaminated soils in Area 1, Eastland Woolen Mill Site, Corinna
9. Aerial photo of Eastland Woolen Mill Site, Corinna



# Division of Remediation Staff

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(use names at right; no caps – include middle initial if present)

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## IN RETROSPECT... New England Pole & Treating Co., Yarmouth



*Aerial Photo—Pole Storage Operations*



*During Remedial Actions—pumping out the liquid creosote floating on ground water.*



*Early growth following site restoration and vegetative reseed*

Over the course of three decades beginning in the early 1920's, this 10-acre site treated thousands of utility poles with creosote, a wood preservative. After wood treating operations ended in 1955 and for the next forty-one years, this site was a primary storage and distribution point for hundreds of thousands of pentachlorophenol treated utility poles destined for use throughout Maine. Seventy years of utility pole treating and storage operations left a variable thickness of wood preservatives under portions of the site.

Years of investigation and coordination between the DEP, the property owners, corporate operators, the town of Yarmouth and local residents led to the cleanup of the site in 1999. More than 13,400 tons of contaminated soil were removed from the site and transported to an approved landfill. Matching volumes of fill and topsoil were brought in to regrade the site and to cover any residual contamination.

Today, this property is slowly returning to its native appearance with grass and shrub cover helping it to blend in with its natural surroundings.

— Wayne Paradis